

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

EA-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-14 NEA-14 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-12 SP-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SWF-02

OMB-01 STR-08 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PRS-01 PA-04

USIA-15 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /201 W
----- 104896

R 211250Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3909

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USNATO BRUSSELS 458

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJ: US/EC 9 CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 096829

1. ON MAY 21 DCM DISCUSSED GUIDANCE IN REFTEL
INFORMALLY WITH MFA SECRETARY GENERAL PIERRE WURTH.
AFTER LISTENING TO OUR PRESENTATION, WURTH SAID THAT
HE FOUND OUR REASONING VERY PERSUASIVE AND THAT
HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH OUR REFERENCES TO
FLEXIBILITY AND RECIPROCITY. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS
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CONFIDENT THAT THE US AND THE EC WERE "VERY CLOSE" TO

AN AGREEMENT ON CONSULTATIONS SINCE HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE NEW FRENCH GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO ACCEPT THE "EXTREMELY FAIR" REASONING IN OUR STATEMENT.

2. WURTH OFFERED THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL COMMENTS ON THE DETAILS OF OUR STATEMENT:

A) THE US MUST DECIDE AT WHAT STAGE IN THE AMERICAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC TAKE PLACE. THE EC HAD TENTATIVELY AGREED TO CONSULT THE US IN MOST CASES AFTER A CONSENSUS IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND BEFORE A DECISION BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE US WOULD NOW HAVE TO PROVIDE AN INFORMAL GUARANTEE THAT EC VIEWS WOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL AND TIME IN THE FORMULATION OF AMERICAN POLICY.

B) THE EC HAD NOT FORMALLY DECIDED WHETHER INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS COULD CONSULT BILATERALLY WITH THE US WITHOUT INFORMING THEIR EC PARTNERS BOTH BEFOREHAND AND AFTERWARDS. THE EC WOULD HAVE TO CLARIFY THIS POINT IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

C) IF THE EC FINALLY AGREES TO A PROCEDURE OF VOTING FOR FORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUES BY THE NINE AND THE US, THE US SHOULD REALIZE THAT ONE EC MEMBER PRESENTING USG VIEWS COULD EFFECTIVELY BLOCK EC POLITICAL COOPERATION. FOR THIS REASON HE ASKED THAT THE US USE OUR "VIRTUAL VETO" OVER EC POLITICAL COOPERATION VERY SPARINGLY.

D) ON THE POINT CONVEYED IN PARAGRAPH 2(D) OF REFTEL, THE US SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT FORMAL CONSULTATIONS CAN TAKE PLACE ONLY IF THE EC AGREES UNANIMOUSLY TO HOLD THEM. THEREFORE, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO STATE THAT CONSULTATIONS WILL OCCUR WHEN "ONE OR MORE OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED DESIRE THEM". IF THERE IS NO EC UNANIMITY ON EC CONSULTATIONS, THESE CONTACTS WOULD PROBABLY TAKE PLACE BILATERALLY IN EC CAPITALS.

3. WURTH ADDED THAT OUR REACTION TO THE GYMnich MEETING WOULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO DISCUSS

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US/EC CONSULTATIONS AT THEIR MEETING ON JUNE 10-11. WURTH SAID THAT HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE EC NINE WOULD NOW BE ABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR A "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" ON CONSULTATIONS TO BE INFORMALLY CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE US AND THE EC BY THE END OF JUNE AND BEFORE THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY TAKES EFFECT. IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED, WURTH OBSERVED THAT IT WOULD BE

A "MORE SIGNIFICANT AND POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENT" THAN ANY
POSSIBLE ACCORD ON A "SYMBOLIC" US/EC DECLARATION. FARKAS

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